

"A-MAY-zing!" is the only way to describe how last month gave way to June. What other month ushers in the next one with such patriotism and red-white-and-blue flags so typical of Memorial Day? A few days later, flags lined the streets a second time when a combat Kerrville Marine, who died in Afghanistan, was laid to rest in the same cemetery here where Donna's parents are buried. Born on the fourth of July 25 years ago, he was the 1000th fatality in the Afghanistan war. It touched all of our hearts.

HERE WE GROW AGAIN! The Riverside congregation is a fast growing congregation. We had two baptisms this month—Tyler Ahrens and Kendall Bosse—who are two of our young people. We also had 5 to place membership this month: Bernice Clendenen, Marty Vaughn, Mary Johnson, Bill Whitt, and Gwen Brawner. Probably the best part of our evangelistic work this month was the addition of two new couples at our Tuesday Night Home Bible Study: Chris and Cecile and Brian and Shannon. This means that we are studying with three brothers and their wives. We don't know why this is so, but it would seem that our most effective work while here at Riverside has been with young couples with little children. We only have two more months with Riverside, and then it will be September and we will be on our way again to attend the Annual Lectureship of Southern Africa Bible College in Benoni. We are already excited about it because eight people are coming from America to participate in the lectureship. When we return to America after Lectureship, we will no longer be working with the Riverside congregation in Kerrville. We will instead resume our work of fund-raising for *Southern Africa Bible College*. Then, next year, we will spend most of our time back in South Africa working with SABC and the Benoni congregation. The future beckons!

SNAKES ALIVE! Who needs a car alarm when you've got two pythons on your dashboard to deter thieves? Car owner *Dr. Mbuso Makhathini* from Durban, South Africa, allows the giant reptiles to slither around inside his Audi TT while he visits his patients. The African rock pythons named *Tiny* and *Naughty* are about 3 meters long. Dr. Makhathini says: "They can sense if someone is unfriendly and they hiss and start coiling." Rather than buy two pythons of our own to check out Dr. Makhathini's testimony, I think we'll just take his word for it! We'll just stick to our alarm system and satellite-tracking security, thank you very much!

USA SOCCER TEAM: The Associated Press reports that the US team arrived in South Africa just in time for the World Cup fanfare. The 23-man roster and nearly as many coaches and support staff left Washington Dulles International Airport on a Sunday evening and arrived in South Africa 17 hours later. They received a warm welcome, though they had to adjust from the hot summer they left behind to quite a different climate. Daytime highs are in the 60's and night time lows near 40. Welcome to winter in

the Southern Hemisphere! This would be the first World Cup south of the equator since 1978 in Argentina. Arriving early for the World Cup warm-up's, players knew it would take time to adjust to altitudes of 6,500 feet in the Johannesburg area.

SECURITY TAKEN SERIOUSLY: The American team stayed in a fortified South Africa hotel -- the 74-room Irene Country Lodge, a luxury hotel north of Johannesburg and south of Pretoria protected by stone walls and barbed wire. When the U.S. team headed to practice, the slogan

on the side of the bus read, "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Victory!," with the Stars and Stripes painted alongside. Motorcycles and police cars went in front of the bus with more security vehicles trailing behind. State Department officials also accompanied the team. There were also plenty of police with holstered guns and bulletproof vests. A look at the security preparation and statistics in the lead-up to the start of the World Cup on June 11 certainly has been impressive: Fifty-five thousand new police officers, \$88 million in new police equipment, the largest deployment of Interpol officers in the organization's history, and up to eight police officers from each of the 31 visiting teams in the country to assist in crime prevention. Everyone, local and from abroad, felt a little safer being duly impressed with the revamped security force being rolled out.

MAKE A NOISE FOR THE BOYS: Meanwhile, one of our friends in Pretoria wrote that she "can't get over the excitement and awesome vibe in South Africa!" South Africans were urged to *make a noise for our boys*. So the day the games began at 12:00 noon, the country erupted with the sound of car horns blowing and the loud, blaring sound of *vuvuzela's*—the yard-long horns that are blown by cup-crazed South Africans. Nationwide, the cry came: "Let the games begin!" It didn't take long before the rest of the world agreed that the constant noise of the *vuvuzela's* in the stadiums was "annoying," but at least they helped put South Africa on the map. In fact, we heard that South Africa has occupied more direct press reporting the world over than any other country in the history of the Soccer World Cup. (Of course, we *Hornes* personally think that since *vuvuzela's* are also *horns*, they couldn't be all that bad, could they?)

THE FIFA WORLD CUP: Can you imagine how proud the country that wins the World Cup will be when their team returns home and steps off the plane? It may be that a ticker tape parade will follow. Certainly the team will be their heroes! We all agree that it's an honor, indeed, for a country represented by their own selected team to win The FIFA World Cup! How much greater then would it be when godly Christians everywhere team up and convert souls and then lay them as trophies at the Savior's feet? One way we can accomplish this is through training many evangelistic *teams* at *Southern Africa Bible College*. To be a team supporter in this, please be a partner with us in this Christ-like endeavor. Please work with us by supporting the College with your prayers and with your financial aid. Send your contribution to SABC c/o Memorial Church of Christ, 900 Echo Lane, Houston, TX 77024. Please make your check out to "*Memorial Church of Christ*" and mark it "*for SABC*." Please help us. We need you. May we count on you? With your support, WE can be Winning team. W.E. = World Evangelism!!

Onward and Upwards,
Al and Donna Horne
Your Missionaries to South Africa